United Nations S/2015/221

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 March 2015

Original: English and French

Letter dated 31 March 2015 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations to report to the Security Council that Canada is taking necessary and proportionate measures in Syria in support of the collective self-defence of Iraq.

On June 25 and September 20, 2014, Iraq wrote to the Security Council, making clear that it was facing a serious threat of continuing attacks from Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) emanating from safe havens in Syria. This threat persists and the attacks by ISIL from safe havens in Syria continue. The Government of Iraq asked the United States to lead international efforts to strike ISIL sites and military strongholds in Syria in order to end the continuing attacks on Iraq, to protect Iraqi citizens, and ultimately to enable Iraqi forces to regain control of Iraq's borders. The efforts of the international coalition have succeeded in degrading ISIL's capabilities and restricting ISIL's operations, but much more remains to be done.

ISIL also continues to pose a threat not only to Iraq, but also to Canada and Canadians, as well as to other countries in the region and beyond. In accordance with the inherent rights of individual and collective self-defence reflected in Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, States must be able to act in self-defence when the Government of the State where a threat is located is unwilling or unable to prevent attacks emanating from its territory.

Canada's military actions against ISIL in Syria are aimed at further degrading ISIL's ability to carry out attacks. These military actions are not aimed at Syria or the Syrian people, nor do they entail support for the Syrian regime.

I would be grateful for you to circulate this letter as a document of the Security Council. I am also copying this letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(*Signed*) Michael **Grant**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative

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